The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1917, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 9. NO. 38. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1919. WHOLE NO. 454.

INDUSTRIAL CHANGES DO NOT ALARM EDITOR

London, England, Dec. 13.—The London Times, which is looked upon by conservative-minded people as the most influential paper in Great Britian, is not alarmed over what it terms "the new industrial order."

"There is no reason," says the editor, "why it should not come into the world quiet smoothly, if people understand what is happening and do not offer an unreasoning opposition." The Times declares that "the real meaning of the present turmoil is that we are witnessing the birth pangs of a new order" and that "there is nothing alarming at all in this, provided that changes are gradual and tentatively introduced and the public understands what is going on, so that false steps can be avoided or retraced in time."

The Times has in mind negotiations now on between the government and the powerful railway men's union and also to the agitation of the British Miners' Federation for the nationalization of coal mines.

The inspiration back of these trade unions, says the Times, is what is called guild socialism. This theory is referred to as a hybrid between state socialism and syndicalism, but avoids the evils of a bureaucratic state control known as state socialism, and of syndicalism, which would operate a business for the sole benefit of the unions in control.

Under guild socialism the industry would be owned by the state, but controlled and run by the people of all grades working in it, organized as a guild. Railway and mines are monopolistic in character, are compartively easy to run with a purely technical staff and the workmen's organizations in these callings are more advanced, it is stated, towards the guild model than in most other industries.

The Times says differences exist among trade unionists' officials on this question, but "at any rate, that is the direction in which they are moving."

The editor fairly faces the fact that before-the-war methods have gone, and instead of viciously attacking any suggestion that changes are due, he draws this consulusion:

"The complete program of guild socialism is chimerical and injudicious, but advances towards it in suitable industries may well be one of the forms which the new order will take."

London, England, Dec. 13.—Reynolds's Newspaper, one of Great Britain's liberal publications, looks with favor on the proposal that railway employes be given a voice in running the transportation systems of this country. The men will have a voice in everything pertaining to the roads. The editor declares that this scheme will not necessarily stop strikes, but it will do much to avoid the necessity for them. "It will help to create an atmosphere in which a great strike should be almost unthinkable," he says.

"A joint board," continued the editor, "composed of five general managers and five appointed by the working railway men, who will deal, not merely with hours and wages, but with all conditions of service, is a very big advance on anything we have yet known.

"The principle of referring disputes, in the event of negotiations failing, to a body composed of representatives of the managers, the workers in the industry and the general public is another innovation which recognizes a really sound principle."

MEXICO A TREASURE HOUSE.

Washington, Dec. 13. — Humboldt once pronounced Mexico "the treasure house of the world," says the National Geographical society in its bulletin on conditions that exist in the southern republic.

Before the war, it is stated, Mexico produced one-third of the world's silver, a considerable percentage of its gold, one-ninth of its lead and one-twentieth of its copper. The country's mineral production exclusive of iron, coal and petroleum, amounted to $15,000,000 in 1910 and probably but one-fourth of the mineral possibilties have been exploited.

Of the 15,000,000 population, but one-third can read or write. Nineteen per cent are white, 43 per cent mixed parentage and the remainder retain their Indian blood uncorrupted.

WHY THEY OPPOSE JAPS.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 13.—When organized labor was demanding exclusion of the Japanese 20 years ago, many newspapers and organizations that now demand exclusion were "deaf, dumb, blind and paralyzed," says the Citizen, owned by the Los Angeles trade union movement.

"But there's a reason," continues the labor paper. "When the slant-eyed Orientals first commenced to swarm to this state they were willing to work for low wages. Now they are entering all lines of business and seriously interfering with the profits of men who do not work with their hands. Hence the howl. They were a blessing when they cut wages; they are a curse since they cut profits."

WANT TAX LAWS REVISED.

New York, Dec. 13.—Just when everybody is keyed up to sing the song that labor's demand for an eight-hour day is causing a loss of European markets, along comes the Annalist, recognized financial paper, and discords the glad refrain. In urging a revision of tax laws, the Annalist says:

"Manufacturers and banks are unable to extend the long-time credit necessary to re-establish European industry and enable the nations to meet their obligations, while rich investors are discouraged by their present income surtaxes."

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 13.—Stereotypers employed on newspapers in this city have raised wages to $7 per day work and $7.50 for night work.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 13.—A new wage agreement secured by newspaper stereotypers calls for $6.75 for foremen for day or night work and $5.75 for journeymen.

WASH HOUSES FOR MINERS.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 13. — Wash houses for Ohio miners will be a fact next April through a new law which requires that these houses be maintained at the entrance of the mines. Hot and cold water and facilities for hanging clothing by the miners must be provided by the companies.

CARPENTERS GAIN.

Hanford, Cal., Dec. 13.—A wage increase of $1 a day has been secured by organized carpenters.

BAD SOCIAL CONDITIONS BLAMED FOR RADICALISM

Washington, Dec. 13.—The department of justice seems to have accepted the theory that bad social conditions are responsible for present day unrest.

In his annual report the attorney general said:

"It is clearly recognized that the present unrest and tendency toward radicalism arise from social and economic conditions that are of greater consequence than the individual agitator.

"An intelligent investigation of the agitator, of his work, and of the results of his work, therefore, demands an understanding of social and economic conditions as a whole."

Canadian "Can't-Strike" Law "Is Not Reassuring"—Cummins

Washington, Dec. 13.—Senator Cummins is not impressed with the Canadian law which prohibits strikes on public utilities until the grievance of these workers is investigated by a government board.

Senator Cummins is urging the passage of legislation that would outlaw strikes on railroads and has declared in favor of extending this theory to all basic industries in America.

The Canadian plan is being advocated also, and Senator Cummins made this estimate of the suggestion:

"I am bound to say that my examination of the history of the legislation and of its administration has not been reassuring."

This verdict is in line with the position of organized labor, which has condemned the Canadian law and also opposes Senator Cummins' plan.

ASSAIL CHILD LABOR TAX.

Washington, Dec. 13. — Skilled attorneys of southern manufacturers have submitted briefs in the United States supreme court against the federal law which imposes a 10 per cent tax on the profits of concerns doing an interstate business who employ child labor under 14 years of age. The case comes up on appeal from a North Carolina federal court, which held the law invalid.

New York, Dec. 13.—The statement that the use of child labor has been reduced 40 per cent because of the 10 per cent federal tax, is denied by Owen R. Lovejoy, general secretary of the national child labor committee, who says:

"The federal law prohibiting the employment of children under 14 in factories, mills, canneries and workshops, and children under 16 in mines and quarries, applies to only a small number of the occupations in which children are gainfully employed in the United States. By far the greatest number of child workers under 16 years of age are listed in other occupations. The federal census of 1910 placed the number of children 10 to 15 years of age employed in farm work at 1,419,098 and those employed in all other occupations, exclusive of mines and manufacturing establishments, at 338,420. Reliable reports tend to show that this number of children gainfully employed was greatly augmented during the war period, and no evidence has been found that the children who, either because of economic pressure or the increased demand for labor, left school to enter industry, have returned to the schools in great numbers."

DRAFT SHOWS ILLITERACY.

Washington, Dec. 13.—In his annual report Secretary of the Interior Lane made this reference to illiteracy in the United States:

"Twenty-five per cent of the 1,600,000 men between 21 and 31 years of age who were first drafted into our army could neither read nor write our language and tens of thousands could not speak it or understand it."

The cabinet official raised a warning note against the continued neglect of American man power and the refusal of this country to take advantage of its natural resources. Water power, minerals and reclamation are included under this head.

Mr. Lane says 150,000 demobilized soldiers have applied for public lands, and that the government is justified in doing for soldiers what it would do for no other classes.

MINERS BREAK RECORD.

Indianapolis, Dec. 13.—The good standing membership of the United Mine Workers was 524,646 for the month of October. As there is always a certain per cent of membership that is released from the payment of dues because of sickness, lack of employment or other causes recognized by the union, the United Mine Workers' Journal estimates that the total membership for October was 550,000.

"No other labor union in the world ever has had so large a membership as that of the United Mine Workers for October," says the miners' journal. The largest other membership was 428,731, during August, 1918, when there were approximately 60,000 organized miners in the military service.

CHILD LABOR ON INCREASE.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 13.—Child labor employment appears to be increasing, a state factory inspector told nearly 1,000 delegates to the state industrial congress, which held its annual meeting in this city. The official blamed unscrupulous employers, who make a better profit on cheap labor. Contributing factors is the laxity of courts in suspending sentence on men convicted for violation of the child labor law and lack of inspectors' jurisdiction outside city limits.

A GOOD CO-OP. ARGUMENT.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—Members of the Illinois Manufacturers' association started a boycott of clothing, food, fuel and other necessities of life against striking coal miners in this state, according to John M. Glenn, secretary of the association. Co-operators point to this incident as another argument for their theory.

LEATHER WORKERS GAIN.

Concord, N. H., Dec. 13.—The newly-organized Leather Workers' union has reduced the work week four hours, or to a 50-hour week, have secured a 13 per cent wage increase, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays.

RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—Bakers' and Confectioners' union No. 2 has raised wages $3 a week.

LIBERTY OF OPINION DEFENDED BY BORAH

Washington, Dec. 13.—In opposing an act that would give censor powers to the postmaster general, Senator Borah notified his colleagues that "you must get back to the proposition of pitting your teachings and your views as to the wisdom, as to the justice of our government, and our institutions against the views of those who are arrayed against it for ultimate decision in this country. I have no doubt at all about that; and there is not a page of history, from the democracies of Greece to this hour that does not teach the same fact.

"When it comes to acts," continued the senator, "men are responsible for their acts. I am speaking now of expressions of opinion. I want to say, however distasteful as it may be to senators here, that I am one of those who stand against the attempt to repress and to suppress the expression of opinion. I believe in the wisdom, in the patriotism, in the sanity and in the poise of the American people.

"Woodrow Wilson once said, and one of the wisest things he ever said, was, that when a man has a pernicious doctrine the best thing to do is to rent him a public hall and let him express himself; the American people will take care of him."

In reply to statements by senators that the act was not intended to interfere with the expression of opinion, and that the judiciary committee of the senate has so declared, Senator Borah said:

"Yes, I was reading Mr. Gompers' speech the other day in which he recounted about 50 instances in which members of the senate and other public officials declared how a certain law would be construed and how it would be administered, but when it got before Judge Anderson out in Indiana it was construed in a different way and administered in a different way."

LESSON FROM STEEL STRIKE.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 13.—One lesson that has been driven home to the workers because of the steel strike is the power municipal executives wield in administering laws, says the Amalgamated Journal, official magazine of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

"Laws have been so framed," says Editor Ben I. Davis, "that a mayor or burgess can laugh at the right of citizenship, guaranteed by state and federal constitutions. Under the pretense of preserving law and order these officials have the power to impose the greatest injustices upon men who never had a blemish upon their community life.

"There is a mighty task and responsibility before the working men of this country. They must right this wrong. In the first place they must pay attention to who they cast their votes for for mayor, sheriff, governor, judges. They must see to it that corporation men do not in the future get their votes as they have been getting them in the past.

"The workers must try to have these unjust class laws that are being used against them in this strike repealed. Class laws enslave, they bind the lives of the workers with conditions that degrade their Americanism."

FAVORS STRIKE TRIBUNAL.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 13.—Governor Allen has called a special session of the state legislature to consider industrial questions. He urges the creation of a tribunal composed of men of "integrity and unapproachable character" who will adjust grievances of the workers. Neither employers or wage earners would be represented on this tribunal.

The governor refers to arbitration as a "seventeenth-century method" because "it becomes a sort of an industrial gamble as to which side has the advantage with the third member of the board."

The governor says the personal rights of men must not be interferred with, but that government "must have the power of final judgment." The governor does not indicate that he considers the right to strike a personal right.

SUGAR GOUGERS FREED.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Attorney General Palmer announces that the government will not attempt to control the distribution and sale of sugar after December 31. This means that sugar dealers will have a free hand and that undoubtedly the price of this commodity will soar.

The attorney general says the government will prosecute dealers who demand "an unjust or unreasonable profit."

As the government has permitted coal owners to charge profits that range from 15 to 800 per cent, according to Secretary of the Treasury Glass, and from 15 to 2,000 per cent, according to former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, it would be interesting to know what constitutes "an unjust and unreasonable profit."

RIDE HORSES INTO HALL.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 13.—State cossacks at Donora, a steel town 30 miles from this city, rode their horses into the hall of striking steel workers and down the aisle of the small room where the terrified workers were assembled. Nearly 100 strikers were arrested and each man was held in $500 bail. The strikers were charged with conspiracy and intimidating men from working in the mills.

Mill managers in Donora have almost exhausted their ingenuity in an attempt to break this strike, and the use of cossacks to ride into the hall of the unionists indicates to what lengths they will go.

ACTORS WANT SUNDAY OFF.

New York, Dec. 13.—The Actors' Equity association has appointed a committee to urge state lawmakers to vote against legalizing Sunday theatricals. The actors declare they are entitled to a one-day rest in seven. The managers, it is stated, are maintaining a lobby at the state capital to secure seven-day legislation.

AND INTO COURTS' HANDS.

New York, Dec. 13.—In favoring the incorporation of trade unions, the New York World says:

"A good many excellent friends of labor believe that incorporation would add dignity, responsibility and security to its organizations, for it would take them out of the hands of reckless men."

RATIFIES SUFFRAGE.

Pierre, S. Dak., Dec. 13.—The state legislature has ratified the equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. This is the twenty-first state that has taken such action.

POST HEAD'S REPORT SOUNDS LIKE GARY'S

Washington, Dec. 13.—The labor sections of Postmaster General Burleson's annual report sounds like Judge Gary's testimony before the senate committee that probed the steel strike.

The post head declares that trade unions in his department "are fast becoming a menace to public welfare and should no longer be tolerated or condoned." He would make it unlawful for these employes to join a labor organization, but he would permit them to unite "for their social and general welfare, to appear before committees of congress and to furnish information concerning the postal service of which they may have knowledge." He favors repealing the anti-gag law of 1912, which now permits employes to petition senators and representatives.

Under Mr. Burleson's plan the postal workers would organize a beneficial or social organization, and submit grievances to him. If he decided that "they may have a knowledge" of these grievances, they could present them to congress.

With regulation anti-union logic the postmaster general condemns unions of postal employes and then has this to say of the men and women who constitute the membership of these organizations:

"Postmasters and postal employes generally have responded cheerfully to these numerous demands upon and extraneous duties required of them, evidencing at all times a worthy spirit of loyalty and patriotism."

Mr Burleson does not acknowledge that the postal service is weakened because of his general labor policy, but national lawmakers are supposed to read between the lines of that portion of his report which recommends most "careful attention to appointment and training of employes with a view to again building up a force of unquestioned efficiency."

CRY "AMERICANISM" NOW.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—"Big interests, the cheap John manufacturers, through our liberal immigration laws, scoured the four corners of the earth to secure cheap labor and they got it," says George W. Perkins, president of the Cigar Makers' International union, writing in the official journal of that organization.

"The thought uppermost in their minds was to get cheap labor regardless of whether they were illiterate, morally degenerate, radicals, bolsheviki, mental incompetents or otherwise. No thought of Americanism or radicalism of the destructive type, the perpetuity of our institutions, our democracy, and our country ever entered their minds. The dollar mark was above country. 'Get the money, honestly if you can; but get it anyway,' seemed to be their slogan.

"This same gentry, with the American flag in one hand and their bank roll in the other, have set up a howl heard from coast to coast demanding that some of the immigrants that they broke their backs to get here be deported, and a certain percentage of those who formerly demanded absolutely unrestricted immigration, except of the insane and dependent, are now with a lookwise expression, demanding that our immigration laws be amended."

IS SURE OF MOONEY'S GUILT.

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 13.—Secretary-Treasurer Scharrenberg, of the state federation of labor, has been informed by Governor Stephens that he (Stephens) is convinced of the guilt of Thomas J. Mooney, now serving a life sentence for complicity in the preparedness day bomb outrage.

The American Federation of Labor has declared in favor of a new trial for Mooney because of charges that the prosecution resorted to perjury when Mooney was convicted. This charge is strengthened by the statement of the trial judge to State Attorney General Webb, that if the perjury charge had been brought to his attention before the case left his court he would "unhesitatingly" have granted a new trial.

Despite this and similar situations, Gov. Stephens injects a new theory into the case — German agents. He says:

"I am convinced he (Mooney) had a part in one of the most atrocious crimes involving treasonable purpose ever perpetrated in the history of our country. Mooney and his associates evidently were in sympathy with Germany's agents, who were resorting to every desperate measure to thwart preparedness of the American nation for war."

OPPOSE INCOME TAX.

New York, Dec. 13.—Patriotic business men will not expand business and extend production and at the same time pay the government a large proportion of their profits in the form of excess profits and income taxes, according to an official of the Guaranty Trust company, who urges repeal of these taxes. It is acknowledged that the business man passes this tax to the consumer and that a business concern is "apt to overestimate, rather than underestimate its liability. In doing this, it becomes an unintentional profiteer in protecting itself from an undue usurpation of its earnings."

U. S. PAYS $10 A MONTH.

Washington, Dec. 13.—A congressional commission that is investigating wages of government employes finds that one employe who cares for pigs at an insane asylum is paid $10 a month for 14 hours a day, seven days a week. Skilled gardeners, with 30 years' experience, are paid as low as $900 a year.

The commission declares that wage conditions at some of the government's institutions are "incomprehensible."

PUMBERS GET UNION SHOP.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 13.—An anti-union organization has been making much capital out of a settlement secured by the Plumbers' union. These workers recently struck and when the controversy was adjusted both parties declined to make the terms public. The antis claimed it recognized their so-called "open shop" but they have been silenced by the publication of the agreement which calls for the union shop.

MR. REDFIELD QUALIFIES.

New York, Dec. 13.—Following his recent attack on the American Federation of Labor at Atlantic City, former Secretary of Commerce Redfield has announced that he has entered the stock brokerage business.

INTEREST IN UNIONS SHOWN BY PROFITEERS

Seattle, Dec. 13.—The demand that trade unions purge themselves of "radicals" comes from those who insist on dealing with the workers as individuals, says Secretary Buck of the Washington state federation of labor, who charges that employers, in their pretended discovery of "radicals in the unions" are really attempting to gain control of these organizations and make them ineffective that profits may not be disturbed.

"Our enemies have condemned every man in the ranks who has exhibited activity," said Secretary Buck. "They have placed the 'brand' on practically every officer in the labor movement from Sam Gompers down, and stretched their definition of 'radicals' to include the whole of that group of members who show enough interest in their affairs to attend the meetings of their respective unions. All of these must be 'purged' if we would satisfy the employers.

"Even then our movement would not be their idea of perfection. To reach this pinnacle in their esteem we must permit them to determine who should fill the various offices and act on various committees. And the rank and file must also agree to transform the union into a mutual admiration society.

"If, after this, we give up a part of the wages they allow us, toward a fund to be used to care for those whose health the inhuman industrial conditions they will create has broken, and bury those who are killed while working for the boss who is operating under the misnamed 'American plan,' we will then have put the finishing touch to the employer's idea of industrial heaven.

"Our duty is clear. We must keep our feet on the earth and our heads and shoulders together. We must think with a cool head and act with good judgment. While our opponents rave we must work all the harder to solidify our ranks. It is our mission to organize, not disorganize.

"This is our answer: 'We will not cringe'."

MOBBERS ARE ARRESTED.

New Orleans, Dec. 13.—Thirteen of the mobbers who shot and killed four trade unionists at Bogalusa on November 22 have been arrested and released on bail. One of the dead unionists was the president of the central body. Bogalusa is 80 miles from this city. The Great Southern Lumber company, one of the largest concerns of its kind in the world, is located there. About six weeks prior to the murders the company locked out 2,000 organized workers in an attempt to smash their unions.

The mob was lead by Loyalty leaguers, who assembled at the call of the mill whistle. The mob claimed it was attempting to deport a negro who was charged with attempting to "array the blacks against the whites."

Later Edward O'Brien, president of the Sawyers and Filers' union was run out of Bogalusa by the mob. These "loyal" citizens painted the word "bolshevik" across the front of O'Brien's hat and "I. W. W. agitator and bolshevik" across the back of his overcoat. He has lived in Bogalusa for 10 years, owns his little home there and has a wife and several children, but his reputation as a law-abiding citizen and worker was nothing to the mobbers in view of his connection with organized labor.

Trade unionists have made protests to Attorney General Palmer, who is asked to protect American citizens from a mob that is disgracing their country and their flag.

FEW OHIO STRIKES.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 13.—Ohio is comparatively free from strikes because of the relations that exist between employers and organized labor, trade unionists told Dr. W. O. Thompson, president of the Ohio state university.

The educator is a member of the president's industrial conference now in session at Washington, and he has been consulting with employers and wage workers on questions that are being considered by the conference.

Trade unionists showed that this state has between 250,000 and 300,000 members of organized labor, nearly all of whom are in contractural relations with their employers.

While many of these employers have not publicly declared in favor of collective bargaining, the fact remains that they conduct wage and working conditions negotiations through the trade unions.

SCHOOLS LOSING VALUE.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 13.—Expressing fear that 600,000 New Jersey school children may be "victims of a demoralized and broken down educational system" due to underpaid teachers, Governor Runyon has called attention of local boards of estimates to "the gravity of the situation."

New Jersey, he said, faces the immediate prospect of closing schools or drawing into the teaching profession a still larger number of those inadequately trained and those without special preparation for the work.

"If our children are to be taught by incompetent teachers or are not to be taught at all, the end of American democracy as we know it is in sight," the governor declared.

BUTCHERS REDUCE HOURS.

Globe, Ariz., Dec. 13.—Organized butchers at this place have cut down their work day one hour.

Chicago Dec. 13.—A store, operated by members of Meat Cutters' union No. 546, broke the lockout that was forced on these employes, who have returned to work with a weekly increase of $5.

The meat cutters slashed prices and their patrons secured new notions of meat dealers' profits. Pork sausage was sold for 18 cents a pound, instead of 30; veal chops, for 15 cents, instead of 38 cents; pork roast for 8½ cents, and porterhouse steak for 15 cents.

BROOM MAKERS GAIN.

Alton, Ill., Dec. 13.—Broom makers have increased wages 21 per cent and established the eight-hour day. The former work day was nine hours.

UNION CITY PROSPERS.

Brockton, Mass., Dec. 13.—About 25 new concerns have started business here and all are working under arbitration agreements with the Boot and Shoe Workers' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

"DOWN THE REDS" CRY WON'T CHECK UNREST

Chicago, Dec. 13.—George W. Perkins, president of the Cigar Makers' International union, declares that the cry of "down the reds" must not be used as a shield for "miserable profiteering," or to secure legislation that would throttle liberty. Writing in the official journal of the Cigar Makers' union, this trade unionist says:

"While there may be an honest desire on the part of some to eradicate by deportation or otherwise the destructive radicals, there is apparently an element hiding behind this movement who would seize the present opportunity to fasten upon the statute books of the nation and state legislation calculated to restrict and nullify the activities of the constructive trade union movement. These trade union opponents operating behind the mask of 'down the reds' are trying to put on the statute books laws to prevent the constructive trade unions from carrying forward their legitimate, lawful trade union activities.

"Against these people we protest, and denounce them as sailing under false colors. All liberty loving people, even those outside of the trade union movement, stand in danger of having their rights and liberties curtailed or abrogated under the guise of 'throttle the reds.' We are not of the destructive, radical type and hold no brief for such, but we don't propose to see the trade unions strangled or crushed by the same gentry and tactics they employ in their efforts to strangle and crush somebody else.

"Just so long as there is miserable profiteering there will be discontent and unrest which repressive laws will not prevent. Deport the 'reds' and continue profiteering, and two discontented protestants against the profiteering gang of robbers will spring up in the place of every one deported."

WHO SAID THEY COULD?

Washington, Dec. 13.—The false reasoning and absence of logic to defend anti-strike legislation was shown by Senator Cummins last week when he declared that "nothing could be more wicked" than the statement that workers would be placed in involuntary servitude if their right to strike is taken from them.

The senator denied that man has the constitutional right to quit work whenever he pleases.

"An engineer upon a railway train," he said, "can not quit whenever he may desire to quit. He can not leave his engine and his train so that human life would be imperiled, or so that property, even, might be injured.

"A physician or surgeon can not quit his employment whenever he may desire to quit, either morally or legally. He can not leave a dangerous operation half performed because it is his pleasure no longer to continue the work of his profession."

While no engineer or a physician ever announced this astounding theory, or was it ever advocated by the trade union movement, the senator presented it in all seriousness and declared that "I grow tired sometimes of hearing those broad generalizations."

COMPANY PICKED DEPUTIES.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 13.—A report made public by the county civil service commission shows that 300 thugs, picked by street railway companies, were commissioned by the public authorities to "preserve" law and order during the recent street car strike. The authorities did not see them, but handed the commissions to a representative of the street car companies. The report says:

"The testimony in the case shows that more than 300 men received appointment as deputy constables to act as special deputies for the street railway companies of Los Angeles; that these men were chosen by representatives of the street railway companies; that they were paid for their services by these companies and that they were entirely and at all times during their services as deputies under the direction and control of these companies.

"The testimony further shows that the selection of these men was made by an employe or representative of these companies who, by agreement, also become a representative, without pay, of the chief constable of Los Angeles township."

TRADE UNION COLLEGE.

Boston, Dec. 13.—The trade union college of Boston has started its first year as an institution of learning with an enrollment of 200 trade unionists. The college is under the auspices of the Boston central labor union and is managed by a committee representing that organization and the teaching staff. The courses include English composition, practice in discussion, literature, philosophy, history and government, law, economics, labor and physical science. A fee of $2 is charged for each course. Some of New England's best known educators are on the teaching staff. The secretary of the committee in charge is Mabel Gillespie of the Stenographers' union, 987 Washington street.

BLOCK CUMMINS' BILL.

Washington, Dec. 13.—With a handful of senators present Senator Cummins moved that the Cummins railroad bill be read the third time and placed on its passage. The move was correct from a parliamentary standpoint, but it was checked by Senator LaFollette who raised the point that a quorum was not present. Later many senators protested that they wanted to make speeches on the subject, and Senator Cummins silenced them by the statement that it was not his fault that they were not present.

CHEMISTS' PAY IS LOW.

Washington, Dec. 13.—At a meeting of government chemists one speaker said high school graduates are loath to enter this most important branch of the public service because the pay is less than that of a bread wagon driver.

A protest was made against a proposed reduction from $1,200 a year to $900 for young men entering the chemistry service.

MILK DRIVERS GAIN.

Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 13.—Milk drivers have secured a six-day week and raised wages 25 per cent for outside workers and 20 per cent for inside employes.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 13.—A wage increase of $3 a week has been negotiated by the Printing Pressmen's union.

UNITED STATES LAGS IN EDUCATIONAL TEST

Washington, Dec. 13.—In summarizing results of its back-to-school campaigns the children's bureau of the United States department of labor says it is conditions such as these "that make the United States eighth instead of first on the list of civilized countries with regard to the proportion of literacy among its citizens."

"One out of every 10 adults living in cities in the United States can not read or write, one out of every five country adults is illiterate—and the states in which there is a high percentage of illiteracy are the states in which there is a high percentage of rural child labor. There are no laws that prohibit the employment of children in agriculture and three-fourths of all working children work on farms.

"Many children were found to be working in violation of the statutes of their states, and many children of school age were in factories because there was not a sufficient number of attendance officers and factory inspectors to keep them in school and out of industry.

"In one state it was found that 10,595 children did not go to school at all last year. In a single district an inspector reported 1,700 children as not having a day of schooling. In many rural districts the children attend school only about half the time, and the hours of rural schools are very short."

The report shows a scarcity of school buildings. It is stated that if all children attended school, 40 per cent of them would have to stand. Low salaries of teachers is also a factor, as present wage standards are driving teachers from this profession for better paid work.

While strictly enforced compulsory school attendance legislation is essential, the children's bureau says this is not a complete remedy, as schools must be made so plainly attractive that boys and girls will want to attend. It is stated that investigations show that the majority of children leave school because they are not interested and the school fails to provide the training which meets their needs.

OMIT UNIVERSAL TRAINING.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The house committee on military affairs has agreed to postpone consideration "at this time" of compulsory military training in connection with army legislation. The war department recommended this legislation. Discussing this question, a local newspaper says:

"There are indications, since convening of congress in regular session, that the scheme for universal military training stands little chance of adoption at this session. Senators and representatives who have returned to their homes after the recess are impressed and correspondingly influenced by the public opposition to universal training which they admit is generally confused with universal military service."

The above statement is significant, and indicates that public opinion is opposed to this system, regardless of how it is camouflaged.

Senator Frelinghuysen of New Jersey has introduced a bill for military training in public schools and colleges, but this plan has not impressed compulsory training advocates, who show that only about 10 per cent of the boys of the country attend high schools and less than 2 per cent attend colleges.

Under the Frelinghuysen system boys employed in industry and in agriculture could not be forced to undergo military training.

FOOD COSTS INCREASE.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The United States bureau of labor statistics reports that in September, 1919, the cost of the 22 articles of food for which weights were secured was 6 per cent higher than in September of last year, but there was a decrease of 2 per cent in September, 1919, as compared with August last.

During the 12 months from September, 1918, to September, 1919, coffee and prunes increased 61 per cent each; onions, 30 per cent; raisins, 26 per cent; rice, 20 per cent; cheese, 19 per cent; sugar, 15 per cent; lard, 14 per cent; butter, 11 per cent; canned salmon, fresh milk and potatoes, 10 per cent each; eggs, 8 per cent; flour, 7 per cent; ham and tea, 6 per cent each; hens, 5 per cent; and bread, 2 per cent. Articles which decreased were: Navy beans, 27 per cent; plate beef, 17 per cent; chuck roast, 11 per cent; lamb, 6 per cent; round steak and rib roast, 5 per cent each; corn meal, 3 per cent; sirloin steak, 5 per cent; and bacon, 1 per cent. Pork chops decreased less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

NO MILK FOR CHILDREN.

New York, Dec. 13.—There are over 200,000 undernourished children in this city who are ready victims of tuberculosis declared Health Commissioner Copeland, who notified milk distributors that if they did not lower the price of milk, relief will be found in some other way. The medical man said milk is absolutely necessary for children and he cited statistics to prove that more than 30 per cent of New York city's children are under nourished.

Two of the largest milk concerns in the east were represented by officials who declined to give information as to their profits.

ARE UNIONS OVERLOOKED?

Philadelphia, Dec. 13.—Have trade unions been overlooked by John W. Goodwin, president of the Smaltz-Goodwin company, shoe manufacturers, who discusses high prices in a local newspaper?

"There is no more profiteering in the shoe trade than in any other," said Mr. Goodwin. "But I do believe that this is a period when everybody is grabbing all he can when they have the chance."

HEALTH ACTIVITY URGED.

New York, Dec. 13.—Greater health activity to reduce mortality of children under 6 years is recommended by the state reconstruction commission, which was appointed last January. Community health centers are favored as one method. The commission finds that the period in the life of the child when physical care is at the minimum and the child is allowed "just to grow" occurs between the ages of 2 and 6.

GAINS AT FORT SCOTT.

Fort Scott, Kan., Dec. 13.—Employes in flour mills, syrup mills and brick yards have secured a 25 per cent wage increase. Hours have been reduced from 12 to eight per day and the work week from seven to six.

GOD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL ORDERS

—U. S. Senator Myers.

Washington, Dec. 13. — Workers should be contented with their lot because God has arranged social orders, declared United States Senator Myers this week in one of his usual speeches. The lawmaker is opposed to government employes joining trade unions and he is an ardent advocate of that brand of "Americanism" that brings shouts of applause from 100 per cent profiteers.

Although white paper is expensive it is believed that publicity of these views on social issues by one of Montana's national representatives will be of interest:

"A great deal of class hostility has been engendered by labor unions. There may be cause for some of it. I think, though, that much of it is due to envy, jealousy or hatred of those who are more fortunate. Many incidents confirm this belief.

"God did not intend that all men should have equal opportunity. Some must be employes. All can not do brain work. Some must do manual work. All men can not be wealthy. Some must possess less than others and some even must be poor.

"Men should be satisfied with the opportunities God has given them; contented with their lot in life and determined to make the most of it and do the best they can instead of feeling envy, jealousy or hatred of those who are more fortunate, more able and who have more of this world's goods, more success and easier times.

"Each should make the most of life in the lot God has given him."

TEACHERS DRIVEN OUT.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The most effective method of destroying the teaching profession is the present policy of refusing to meet increased costs of living, says School Life, issued by the United States bureau of education.

This publication shows that the United States bureau of labor statistics' figures call for $1,500 a year as the lowest that a single woman can live in health and decency and that $2,250 is absolutely necessary for a man, wife and normal family of three children.

"Most of the teachers' salaries schedules recently adopted do not even meet this minimum requirement for a single woman," continues School Life. "And as for meeting the needs of a normal married person with dependents, the schedules go on assuming that none such will come into the schools. The mere fact that the cost of living has exactly doubled since 1913, and that anything less than doubling salaries is to make them lower than before, does not seem to have penetrated.

"If there is any surer way of destroying the teaching profession than by the present method of starving the teachers, it is not clear what it is. Men simply will not go into a profession that forever bars them from the possibilities of normal family life and a decent living, and as the opportunities of women grow greater, increasingly few really capable women will enter upon teaching."

COSSACKS RIOT AT FUNERAL.

Braddock, Pa., Dec. 13.—State cossacks have found a new way to start a riot. The Daily Herald tells this story while attempting to excuse the outrage:

"State troopers, spurring their horses into a procession of marching men in Braddock avenue, near George street, at 9 o'clock this morning, broke up a threatening demonstration by strikers. The crowd, which was dispersed, was estimated at 400 men. They fled in all directions, disappearing up alleys, into houses and over fences.

"The procession had formed in the rear of a funeral cortege which was moving to SS. Peter and Paul Greek Catholic church, in George street, police said. The state troopers were immediately notified and charged down Braddock avenue. The galloping horses swept into the crowd hurling men right and left and causing scores to flee for their lives. Within a few minutes the attempted parade had vanished."

RATS CAN'T KEEP WARM.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 13.—Steel mills in Martin's Ferry, Ohio, are so cold that the rats have deserted these plants, according to a dispatch from that city to a local newspaper. This is the story that comes from the Ohio town:

"Hardware men report an exceptional demand for mouse and rat traps this year. One dealer said he had never experienced such a rush for rodent catchers. The steel strike is blamed, as the animals, which had lived about the plants where the furnaces kept them warm, and the scraps from men's lunches provided them with food, are driven elsewhere to find food. Two big glass mills, where hundreds of rats fattened on the bran used in polishing tin, are idle, causing rats to infest the city."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Portsmouth, N. H., Dec. 13.—A new wage agreement secured by the Typographical union provides these rates: Newspapers, day work, $30 a week for hand men and $32 for machine operators. Newspapers, night work, $30.50 for hand men and $32.50 for machine operators.

Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 13.—Members of the Typographical union employed in commercial shops have raised wages from $27.50 a week to $30.

WHY MUST MOTHERS WORK?

New York, Dec. 13.—The American Woolen company will establish a "motherhood insurance," which assures every prospective mother in the employ of the corporation four weeks' benefit without cost to her.

This announcement may bring joy to uplifters and social workers but it is a bitter indictment against wage rates paid to the father and supposed bread winner.

FLAT JANITORS GAIN.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—The Flat Janitors' union has secured a union shop agreement and wage increases that average 23 per cent.

TO START CO-OP STORE.

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 13.—Organized labor will start a co-operative grocery store and extend branches to other sections of the city. Stock will be sold at $25 a share.